

**Sebago School Department
Minutes
School Budget Validation Town Meeting
Warrant for Fiscal Year 2019-2020
May 14, 2019
Sebago Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 pm by Town Clerk, Maureen Scanlon. ~Present were School Committee members Tina Vanesse, Joe McMahon, Wendy Newcomb, Donelle Allen and Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft. Also present were Sebago Superintendent Marc Gendron and School Committee clerk Allen Crabtree.~There were 44 voting residents in attendance including these individuals named above. ~

**WARRANT TO CALL SEBAGO SCHOOL BUDGET TOWN MEETING
(20-A M.R.S.A. § 1485)**

To Tim Anderson, Resident, in the Town of Sebago, in the County of Cumberland:

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required by law to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sebago that a Town Meeting/School Budget Meeting will be held at Sebago Town Hall, 406 Bridgton Road in Sebago. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 immediately following the Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of determining the budget articles set forth below.

ARTICLE 1:~~~~~To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

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A motion was made by Joe McMahon and seconded by Tina Vanesse to nominate Rich Ruhlin as Moderator. ~ There were no other nominations. ~In lieu of a written vote Rich Ruhlin was sworn in as Moderator with verbal affirmation by the School Committee.

Ruhlin introduced Superintendent Gendron who had brief introductory remarks, thanked the town for the long process it has supported, explained the budget and the handouts that everyone had received when they came to the meeting. He spoke about the planned Pre-Kindergarten Program that will start in the fall and the Capital Assets Management Plan for long term improvements to the Elementary School building. There is no increase in the local funds that will need to be raised in this new budget from last year. He reminded the voters that after the meeting today everyone would need to vote on May 28 at the referendum on the school budget.

School Committee members Tina Vanesse and Joe McMahon praised the Superintendent for the fine job he has been doing, and also the tremendous support that the Sebago community continues to give for our Sebago Elementary School.

Beth McCarthy commented that it has been a long dream of Sebago to have our own elementary school and thanked all those that have worked so hard to bring us this far.

**ARTICLES 2 THROUGH 12 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES**

The Moderator explained that the warrant articles would require two votes – one on the warrant article and a second to authorize the dollar amounts for that article.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. *School Committee recommends \$ 1,925,140.*

Joe McMahon made a motion to approve the article, seconded by Susan Gassett from the audience. A second motion was made by Susan Gassett to approve funding for the article of \$1,925,140 and seconded by Phil Lowe from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

During the discussion on the motions, Beth McCarthy had a question about the decrease in health insurance, and the Superintendent replied that we are getting a better rate this year. We are also seeing an increase in the number of students this year.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for Special Education. *School Committee recommends \$ 523,219*

Joe McMahon made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Wendy Newcomb. A second motion was made by Jason Schoolcraft from the audience to approve funding for the article of \$523,219 and seconded by Susan Gassett from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education. *School Committee recommends \$ 0*

Tina Vanesse made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Joe McMahon. A second motion was made by Anne McMahon from the audience to approve \$0 funding for the article and seconded by Phil Lowe from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction. *School Committee recommends \$ 15,500*

Tina Vanesse made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Wendy Newcomb. A second motion was made by Anne McMahon from the audience to approve \$15,500 funding for the article and seconded by Susan Gassett from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support. *School Committee recommends \$ 148,512*

Joe McMahon made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Tina Vanesse. A second motion was made by Chris Harrington from the audience to approve \$148,512 funding for the article and seconded by Jason Schoolcraft from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

During the discussion on the article Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft explained the guidance, library, and technical programs at the school.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for System Administration. *School Committee recommends \$ 170,089*

Tina Vanesse made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Joe McMahon. A second motion was made by Susan Gassett from the audience to approve \$170,089 funding for the article and seconded by Phil Lowe from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for School Administration. *School Committee recommends \$ 186,537*

Tina Vanesse made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft. A second motion was made by Jason Schoolcraft from the audience to approve \$186,537 funding for the article and seconded by Chris Harrington from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses. *School Committee recommends \$ 208,013*

Joe McMahon made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Tina Vanesse. A second motion was made by Anne McMahon from the audience to approve \$208,013 funding for the article and seconded by Phil Lowe from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

During the discussion of the article Jason Schoolcraft asked if another grant would be available for the purchase of additional school buses. The Superintendent said that the only grant available right now is the grant from the state administering the Volkswagen emissions settlement. He also noted that the old bus which will be replaced by the new partially funded grant bus will need to be rendered inoperable under the terms of the grant. The other old bus we received from MSAD61 during Sebago's withdrawal will likely be sold.

**ARTICLE 10:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for Facilities and Maintenance. *School Committee recommends \$ 217,309.*

Susan Gassett made a motion from the audience to approve the Article, seconded by Tina Vanesse. A second motion was made by Susan Gassett from the audience to approve \$217,309 funding for the article and seconded by Jason Schoolcraft from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments. *School Committee recommends \$ 207,000.*

Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Joe McMahon. A second motion was made by Chris Harrington from the audience to approve \$207,000 funding for the article and seconded by Jason Schoolcraft from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

There was discussion on the amount of debt service and the schedule for paying it all off. Jason Schoolcraft wanted to know how much Sebago still owed to MSAD61. Could Sebago pay earlier and avoid interest? The Superintendent noted that the bonds and indebtedness that MSAD61 has entered into may have prepayment penalties if any deviation from the payment schedule is made. Sebago's debt service will decline as the capital projects bonds are paid off.

**ARTICLE 12:** To see what sum the School Committee will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures. *School Committee recommends \$ 50,000.*

Jason Schoolcraft made a motion from the audience to approve the Article, seconded by Chris Harrington from the audience. A second motion was made by Scott Douglas from the audience to approve \$50,000 funding for the article and seconded by Linda May from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

During discussion on this article questions were raised and answered about funding for music programs, food service, collection of lunch moneys, and write off of uncollected debts.

## **ARTICLES 13 THROUGH 15 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

**ARTICLE 13:** To see what sum the Town will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the Town will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688. *School Committee recommends appropriating \$ 2,394,044 and raising \$ 2,187,881.*

*Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Town must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Tina Vanesse. Phil Lowe suggested from the audience that the language in the Article be changed from "kindergarten" to "pre-kindergarten" reflecting the new pre-K program that will be started this fall. Jason Schoolcraft made a motion from the audience to amend the motion to include pre-kindergarten and seconded by Phil Lowe from the audience. A vote was taken on the amendment to the motion approving the article, which passed unanimously.

A motion was then made by Jason Schoolcraft from the audience to approve appropriating \$ 2,394,044 and raising \$ 2,187,881 funding for the article and seconded by Ann McMahon from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article as amended and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Town for non-state-funded school construction projects, or non-state-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. *School Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$ 0.*

*Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments of the School Committee's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects and minor capital renovation projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding for this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters of SAD61 when Sebago was a member.*

Jason Schoolcraft made a motion from the audience to approve the Article, seconded by Tina Vanesse. Phil Lowe suggested from the audience that the language in the Article be changed from "kindergarten" to "pre-kindergarten" reflecting the new pre-K program that will be started this fall. Phil Lowe made a motion from the audience to amend the motion to include pre-kindergarten and seconded by Claudia Lowe from the audience. A vote was taken on the amendment to the motion approving the article, which passed unanimously.

A motion was then made by Chris Harrington from the audience to approve appropriating \$ 0 funding for the article and seconded by Jason Schoolcraft from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article as amended and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

**ARTICLE 15:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$ 980,989 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$ 980,989 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

*The School Committee recommends \$ 980,989 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$ 980,989: new Pre-K development funds, anticipated Special Ed cost, funding for Capital Asset Management Plan, tech and transportation costs.*

*Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised over and above the School Committee's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment of non-state-funded debt service that will help achieve the municipality's budget for educational programs.*

A motion was made by Ann McMahon from the audience to approve the Article as written and was seconded by Claudia Lowe from the audience. The Moderator announced that Article 15 requires a secret, written ballot by the voters. Moderator Ruhlin declared a 5-minute recess so voters could place their ballots with the town clerk. The town clerk certified that the vote on the article was 34 in favor and 4 opposed. Moderator Ruhlin declared the article passed.

#### **ARTICLE 16 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

**ARTICLE 16:** To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy, and other receipts for the support of schools. *School Committee recommends \$ 3,388,783.*

A motion was made by Tina Vanesse to approve the Article as written and was seconded by Joe McMahon. Phil Lowe suggested from the audience that the language in the Article be changed from “kindergarten” to “pre-kindergarten” reflecting the new pre-K program that will be started this fall. Phil Lowe made a motion from the audience to amend the motion to include pre-kindergarten and seconded by Claudia Lowe from the audience. A vote was taken on the amendment to the motion approving the article, which passed unanimously.

The Moderator announced that Article 16 requires a secret, written ballot by the voters. Moderator Ruhlin declared a 5-minute recess so voters could place their ballots with the town clerk. The town clerk certified that the vote on the article was 29 in favor and 2 opposed. Moderator Ruhlin declared the article passed.

#### **ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS**

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the School Committee be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes provided that such grants, programs, and other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated? *School Committee recommends a “YES” vote.*

A motion was made by Joe McMahon to approve Article 17 as written, and it was seconded by Tina Vanesse.

Article 17 passed by a unanimous vote of the voters.

#### **ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE**

**ARTICLE 18:** To see what sum the School Committee will appropriate for Adult Education and to see what sum the Town will raise as the local share. *School Committee recommends \$ 0*

Jason Schoolcraft made a motion from the audience to approve the Article, seconded by Anne McMahon from the audience. A second motion was made by Chris Harrington from the audience to approve \$0 funding for the article and seconded by Jason Schoolcraft from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

#### **ARTICLE 19 AUTHORIZES CREATION OF RESERVE ACCOUNTS**

**ARTICLE 19:** To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the ending balance of the school general operating fund for the 2018-2019 school year to establish Reserve Accounts for, but no limited to a Capital Reserve, Transportation Reserve, Tuition Reserve, Special Education Reserve. And Tech Plan Reserve account and expend sums in these Reserve Accounts as the School Committee deems appropriate. *School Committee recommends \$160,679.*

Jason Schoolcraft made a motion from the audience to approve the Article, seconded by Chris Harrington from the audience. A second motion was made by Jason Schoolcraft from the audience to approve \$0 funding for the article and seconded by Chris Harrington from the audience. A vote was taken on the funding for the article which passed unanimously. A second vote was taken on the article and it was passed unanimously by the voters.

#### **ARTICLE 20 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF RESERVE ACCOUNTS**

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will authorize the Sebago School Committee to appropriate up to \$160,679 from the reserve accounts and expend them for the reserves’ intended purposes. *The Sebago School Committee recommends a “YES” vote.*

Jason Schoolcraft made a motion from the audience to approve the Article, seconded by Chris Harrington from the audience. The article was passed unanimously by the voters.

During discussion Jim Janz asked why this article was needed? The Superintendent said it was added at the recommendation of our lawyer.

#### **ADJOURN:**

The meeting of the School Budget Validation Town Meeting concluded at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Allen Crabtree  
Sebago School Department  
School Committee Clerk